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DE RUEHJI #0060 0401502  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 091502Z FEB 09  
FM AMCONSUL JEDDAH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1160  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS JEDDAH 000060

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY RIYADH PASS TO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP (HARRIS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [KWBG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [SA](#)

SUBJECT: JEDDAH ECONOMIC FORUM GETS A GREEN LIGHT FROM  
MINISTRY

REF: A. A. JEDDAH 13  
[1](#)B. B. JEDDAH 20  
[1](#)C. C. JEDDAH 29  
[1](#)D. D. JEDDAH 50

(SBU) Sources at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) confirm that the Saudi Ministry of Commerce has approved the JCCI's request to hold the Jeddah Economic Forum (JEF) and has also approved a list of requested international speakers. Approval was received over the "Western" weekend (the Saudi weekend is Thursday-Friday), so Chamber staff were unable until today to reach out to many speakers to find out whether and/or when they would be available to participate in the marquee event in order to set a new date. The slate of speakers originally expected to travel to Jeddah for the JEF next week (February 14-17), but it is now hoped that a mutually agreeable substitute date will be found in April. We will continue to provide updates on this evolving story (reftels A, B, C and D).  
QUINN